

**general
information**

care

instruction



skruzdis.it

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ANTS ARE NOT
TOYS,
THEY MUST BE
CARED OF!
”



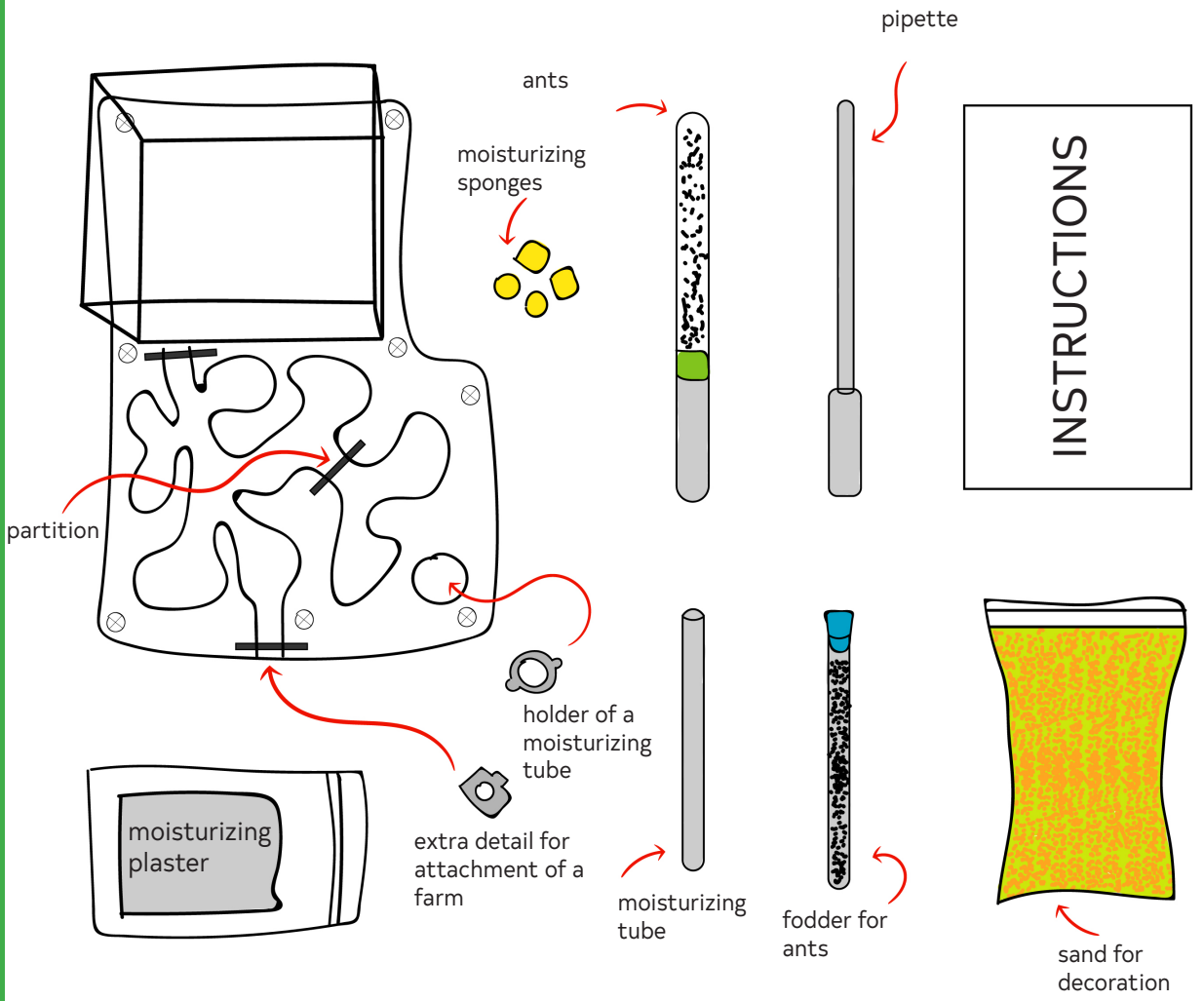
Formicarium "Skruzdis" is an acrylic farm for a long-termed keeping of an ant colony. It consists of a stage and a colorful system of traffic. Part of traffic paths are erected under the moisturizing chamber; therefore, ants live with no discomfort in farm "Skruzdis".

Moisturizing chambers are required in order to maintain optimal conditions of moisture and comfort; therefore, they must be periodically filled with water. That basically means that moisturizing chambers are essential in order to grow an ant colony.

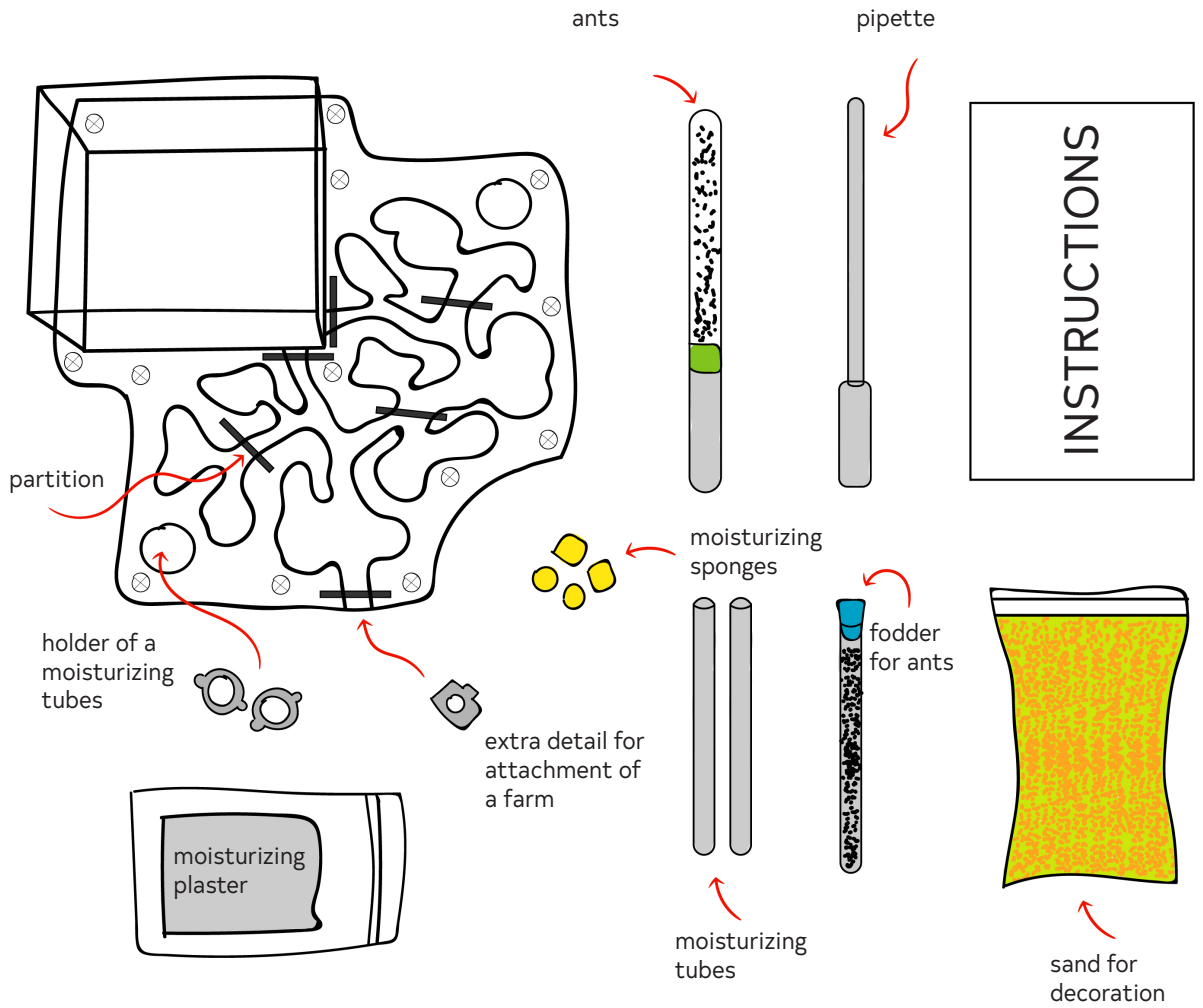
The stage is necessary to leave fodder for ants there. Ants also can push trash onto the stage, which must be cleaned time to time. The height of the chambers is 8 mm; therefore, they excellently fit to both small and large types of ants.

Besides, you can attach an extra farm to any farms of ours by using a pipe.

FARM "S"



FARM "M"





All **SKRUZDIS farms** are equipped with partitions dividing the internal systems of traffic into several parts. If your colony consists of less than 200 ants, in this case extra partitions of the farm must be closed; it should be without an internal hole.

If the colony contains more than 200 individuals (when ants occupy 2/3 of open chambers), please open the next partition. There are 6 partitions in **Farm "M"** (there are only three separating the passes, while other three ones are extra partitions of the farm). In **Farm "S"** there are 3 partitions, while there no partition separating the passes in Farm "S". Taking the above-mentioned rules into account in order to grow a colony successfully, partitions must be opened one by one in sequence.

IMPORTANT!

If you plan to decorate your farm, you should do that before housing your ants. In the farm partitions must ALWAYS be either closed or opened.

When housing ants it is possible that 10% of your worker ants will not survive.

Housing is a significant and long-termed process, which can take longer than one day. Thus, you should be patient and attentive.

If your colony of ants contains 15–20 individuals already (mostly such colonies are delivered to the customers), you can start the process of housing. After opening the tube, take the ants out onto the stage of the farm.

How to do this properly you can see in our **"Youtube"** video **"Housing of ants"**.

DON'T FORGET!

You must do the following steps before taking the ants out onto the stage of the farm:

- to moisten a plaster board equipped in the farm (how to do that you can also watch on our "Youtube" channel);
- in order to decorate the farm with sand or additional details, you should do that before housing your ants.

AFTER HOUSING

The main task arising after the housing is to show your ants the path to water.

How to do that you will learn after carrying out the following steps:

- light the stage of the farm with a lamp;
- cover the area of passes with e.g., a book or an exercise book so that passes were in dark shade while the stage where ants have been housed is as light as possible.

Ants like dark places; therefore, they will immediately notice darkness. Within a few hours, ants will explore the new territory. The colony will find the chamber with a moisturized plaster and take there everything what is necessary. Other chambers will be occupied during the growth of the colony.



Before starting the feeding, you should familiarize yourself with the features of the ant type. It is prohibited to experiment with feeding and give ants products for human. Insects must not be fed with dairy products and other confectioneries. Therefore, it is preferable to feed ants with the fodder intended for them (e.g. seeds, dead flies, boiled egg).

Open up the lid slightly and put some fodder on the stage so that no entrance is blocked. Small colonies avoid confronting live insects and will attack only when the family has grown up sufficiently. Do not give ants more fodder than necessary.



If there is too much of unnecessary fodder, a small colony can hardly cope with cleaning; therefore, there is a threat to clog the chambers and for the mold to develop. Additional fodder can be introduced only when the colony consists of at least 200 inhabitants.

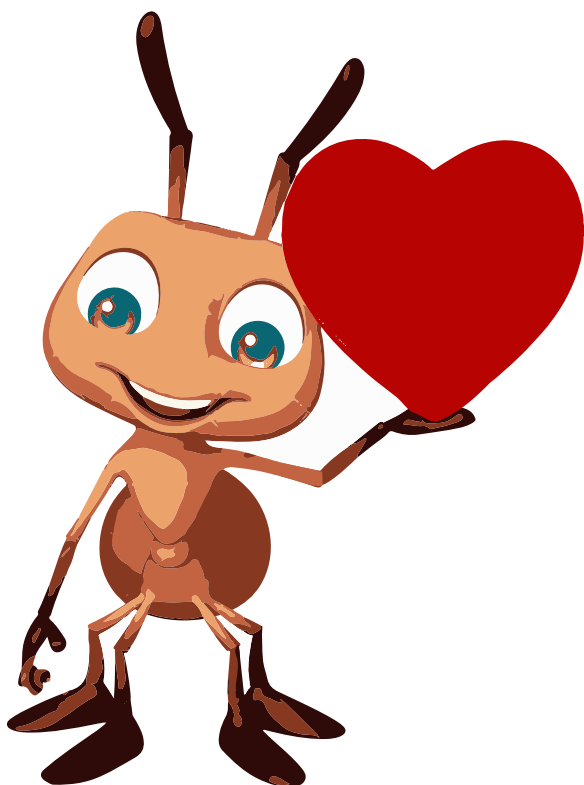
In order to stimulate the growth of ants and help to transform them into soldiers, they should be fed with boiled potatoes, cereals, dead flies, boiled eggs or special insects (which you can find in our e-shop).

Moreover, you can give the ants boiled meat and poultry liver, dead fodder insects. The size of a piece must be larger than the pass into the chambers so that ants would not take it inside the traffic system.

IMPORTANT!

It is not recommended to feed ants with insects caught outside, e.g. flies or mosquitoes, especially if the colony is small.

Feed them with insects only, which have been bought in the shop for pets. Meat and liver must be boiled without salt and spices!



Every farm is equipped with a special chamber with a built-in plaster board intended for moisturizing.

By using a tube (delivered with the set) moisture the plaster with a full tube of boiled and cooled water.

Repeat this action every 3 days. Ants, as any other alive organisms, require water; therefore, try not to forget about this job.

Taking the type of ants into consideration, it is necessary to maintain different levels of moisture in the farm. Only an appropriate level of moisture will ensure the conditions favourable for the reproduction of off-springs and the development of your colony

IMPORTANT!

Water should be poured into the moisturizing chamber. Don't let water entering into the substratum or sand, which surrounds the stage.

If you have a farm, which contains two moisturizing chambers, you should pour water only into the part where ants live. After the colony becomes larger, and you remove an empty partition, and you let the ants into the second part of the traffic system, you should moisture the both chambers.

IMPORTANT!

The traffic system must be dry! Don't pour more water than it is necessary as it can flood the living zone.

Water must be room temperature because the changes in the temperature can create condensate on the glass. Besides, water must be clean, without any sediments. Otherwise, impurities will always gather in the moisturizing system.

If you have moisturized the farm too much and mold has developed, you must disassemble it and to clean with water. Temporary accommodate ants in another container. Besides, remove the trash, which has been taken out by ants, from the stage.

You can do this by using a keyboard vacuum cleaner or tweezers.

IMPORTANT!

It is prohibited to clean the farm with liquids containing alcohol.

You can observe and admire your pets at any time of the day; however, you should not better disturb the colony inhabitants with a bright light and vibration.

Additional stress may affect the rate of ants' development, and in rare cases, if ants are disturbed too often, the above-mentioned actions may kill them. The lid of the range must be closed.

A lot of things depend on the location of the farm. We recommend the following rules below:

- protect your farmer from direct sunlight;
- don't use any table lamp near the farm;
- avoid temperature fluctuations; therefore, it is not recommended to place the farm by the radiators or on the windowsills, where there are air streams;
- don't place your farm near sources of strong noise or vibration;
- there should not be strong fragrance sources near your farm.

A comfortable temperature for growing your ants is 22–28°C.

The best temperature for a faster development is approximately +25°C.





When properly maintaining, the colony of ants will grow and advance. In the course of time, ants need more space: they start spending more time on the stage. Therefore, in order to continue growing the colony, it is necessary to expand its shelter.

You can increase their space by attaching any other farm. All Farms SKRUZDIS have plug adapters for connection of extra territories. In order to do that, you should connect a pipe.

When increasing the residing space of ants, the colony continues growing. Importantly, every type has its limits, which cannot be exceeded; therefore, development of the colony is not endless.

How much of water should you pour into the farm?

One full tube of water is sufficient for 3 days.

Boiled water

REMEMBER! The farm must be moisturized with boiled water only.

Replacement of plaster (gypsum)

Moisture on the plaster boards sooner or later causes development of mold; therefore, if you have noticed it, you should immediately replace the plaster board with a new one.

Farm "M" is equipped with 2 moisturizing chambers.

The traffic system is divided into two parts by a partition. Till ants live in one section of the farm, you should moisture just one moisturizing chamber.

After the colony has grown up to a necessary size and you allow your ants into the second section, then you should moisturize the both chambers.

We hope for your feedback.

**Don't forget that you can always
contact us, and we will help you to
solve any problems!**

